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Trends. Globalization as a Projective Stimulus

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How will the political psychology of individuals, groups, organizations, and other entities change in an era of globalization? Theorists--whether they view globalization as a vehicle for breath-taking technological advances or for increasing interdependence across social, cultural, economic, and political phenomena--have posited very heterogeneous views. Some warn of a future of significant alienation, antisocial tendencies, learned helplessness, and authoritarian and totalitarian controls. Some applaud a future with increasing cooperation among diverse peoples, the actual decrease of this diversity, decreasing corruption, and a greater feeling of human identity and belonging.

As with the Rorschach process--asking individuals what a series of ambiguous stimuli look like--theorists' views of globalization and its consequences may tell more about them than the ambiguous stimulus. Such often is the case with divergent viewpoints on political conflict. This does not mean that everyone is right, that there is no right, or that there is no wrong. It does mean that regardless of many changes throughout the world, some human traits remain the same. (See Crossette, B. (September 12, 1997.) Crumbling Calcutta begins to clean itself up. *The New York Times*, p. A11; Meloy, J.R., Hansen, T.L., & Weiner, I.B. Authority of the Rorschach: Legal citations during the past 50 years. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 69, 53-62; Paradox: A vital Issue of security policy. *IBPP*, 2(5); Political psychology and globalization. *IBPP*, 1(13); Political psychology and political policy. *IBPP*, 1(17); The political psychology of virtual reality: Scandinavian trail blazing. *IBPP*, 2(12); Virtual reality technology and mental health: Comments on the Medicine Meets Virtual Reality 5 International Conference. *IBPP*, 1(10).)